

County Board of Commissioners of Florida, and the administration. I urge adoption of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3768, as amended, is a small, non-controversial measure. The legislation involves the inclusion of 8.5 acres of land within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve in northern Florida. This parcel of land, known as American Beach, has historical ties to the African American community, largely represented by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), which used the area for many years for recreational purposes. It is our understanding that this non-controversial measure has the support of the local community and there are no objections from the National Park Service to the inclusion of this recreational and historical land within the preserve.

That being the case, Mr. Speaker, we support the passage of the legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), who is the sponsor of this important legislation.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3768. I introduced this bill to provide protection to a parcel of land that is located in a historic area of my district, an area called American Beach which has great national significance. This beautiful stretch of shoreline provides a great history and a great story.

Founded in the 1930s by A. L. Lewis, American Beach provided a sunny paradise for African Americans during a tumultuous time in American history. This area of Florida's northeastern shore attracted African Americans from all over the country, including heavyweight boxing champion Joe Lewis, entertainer Cab Calloway, and civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph. While this Nation was struggling to find equality within its shores, American Beach provided a relaxing, culturally unique spot for African Americans to gather along the ocean's edge. The significance of this site was recently recognized when the beach and 120 residential homes in the area were added to the National Registry of Historic Places. Additionally, in 1992 the Florida legislature named American Beach the first site on the Florida Black Heritage Trail.

In his recently released budget, President Bush provides resources for a new Preserve America program through the National Park Service. This initiative is designed to encourage heritage tourism throughout the coun-

try. Today this legislation answers the President's call without spending a single dime of taxpayers' money.

Last year, American Beach's neighbor, Amelia Island Plantation, made arrangements to donate 8.5 acres to the National Park Service. Unfortunately, the Park Service could not accept this generous gift because the acreage rests outside the boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. And so what this legislation simply does, it allows the National Park Service to accept the historic site by simply modifying the boundaries of the preserve.

I support this addition to the Timucuan, and others like it, where willing property owners and the National Park Service can work together as stewards of our national treasures. I urge the adoption of this bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3768, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

NATIONAL WAR PERMANENT TRIBUTE HISTORICAL DATABASE ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2201) to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2201

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) on November 13, 2000, Congress agreed to a resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for cataloging and maintaining public memorials;

(2) there are many thousands of public memorials and permanent tributes throughout the United States and abroad that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces;

(3) many of these memorials suffer from neglect and disrepair, and many have been relocated or stored in facilities where the memorials are unavailable to the public and subject to further neglect and damage; and

(4) there exists a need to collect and centralize information regarding the identifica-

tion, location, and description of these memorials, as no such catalog is available to the public from either the Federal Government or any nongovernmental entity.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In order to locate, identify, and catalog the many thousands of permanent tributes that commemorate the military conflicts of the United States, and the service and sacrifice of individuals in the Armed Forces of the United States, and to make such information readily available for the educational benefit of the public, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, may establish and maintain a database known as the National War Permanent Tribute Historical Database.

(b) CONTENT.—The database shall contain information on—

(1) the location, history, and background of the permanent tributes;

(2) photographs and other information to enhance the understanding of the permanent tributes;

(3) information about the veterans in whose honor the permanent tributes are dedicated; and

(4) any other information the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary.

(c) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The database shall be made accessible to the public, through the Internet or by other means, in a format that permits the public to submit information on permanent tributes for the purpose of updating and expanding the database.

(d) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may seek the assistance of other Federal agencies and the States and their political subdivisions, tribal governments, public or private educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and individuals or other entities that the Secretary considers appropriate in carrying out this Act, and may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to obtain information or services that assist in the development and implementation of the database.

(e) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "permanent tribute" means any statue, structure, or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the Armed Forces.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Within 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall transmit to the Congress a report assessing the efficacy and desirability of establishing a permanent fund within the Treasury for the repair, restoration, and maintenance of the memorials identified and catalogued under section 3. The report shall include recommended criteria regarding appropriate recipients of expenditures from such a fund as well as proposed funding mechanisms and any other information considered by the Secretary to be relevant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2201.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2201, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), would authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating and cataloging the many public memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans of armed service. Once completed, this database will provide our Nation with an excellent educational resource for future generations to learn about the contributions made by members of our Armed Forces. It will also serve as yet another reminder of the sacrifice so many Americans have given to defend our country and the freedoms that we hold so dear.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2201 is supported by the majority and minority of the committee, and I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2201 is a bipartisan measure introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), that will help further the commemoration of the service rendered in military conflicts throughout American history.

There are thousands of public memorials that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals of the U.S. Armed Forces. On November 13, 2000, Congress agreed to a resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for cataloging and maintaining public memorials.

As I said, there are many thousands of public memorials and permanent tributes throughout the United States, including in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and abroad, that commemorate military conflicts of the United States and the service of individuals in the Armed Forces. Many of these memorials suffer from neglect and disrepair and many have been relocated or stored in facilities where the memorials are unavailable to the public and subject to further neglect and damage.

There also exists a need to collect and centralize information regarding the identification, location and description of these memorials, as no such catalog is available to the public from either the Federal Government or any nongovernmental agency.

By directing the establishment of a centralized database of these public memorials, H.R. 2201 will contribute to the increased recognition and understanding of the events and people involved in the defense of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) for his initiative on this important matter. I wholeheartedly support this bipartisan measure and urge its adoption by the House today.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2201.

I want to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL as well as Subcommittee Chairman RADANOVICH and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, Dr. CHRISTENSEN for their leadership in having the Resources Committee act so promptly on this bill. And I greatly appreciate the cooperation from the Veterans' Affairs Committee that has made it possible for the bill to come to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to help the government and the public to keep track of the many important war memorials on public lands throughout our country.

It would also provide for a report to Congress to determine if there should be a permanent fund within the Treasury for the upkeep of these memorials.

These memorials remind us that the freedom we enjoy in the United States has not just been given to us—Americans have made great sacrifices, including their lives, to protect our way of life.

Unfortunately many of these memorials don't receive the care they deserve and have fallen into disrepair.

These memorials may not be as large as those on the National Mall or Arlington Nation Cemetery but they are just as important and should be taken care of.

In 2002, Congress agreed to a resolution expressing the need for cataloging and maintaining public memorials. The bill would follow through by taking the first step of cataloging our public war memorials.

By cataloging and reporting to Congress on the condition of all war memorials on public lands and by considering how to maintain them we make sure that our veterans are not forgotten.

Passage of this bill will be a step toward renewing our commitment to honor our Nation's veterans. I urge approval of the bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2201.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPLAUDING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO KEEP AMERICA MOVING AND RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 420) applauding the men and women who keep America moving and recognizing National Transportation Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 420

Whereas the United States transportation system is an extensive, inter-related public and private network of roads, airports, railroads, transit routes, waterways, terminals, ports, and pipelines;

Whereas millions of people and businesses rely on this expanding system to get to work, embark on vacations, conduct business, and ship goods within the United States and abroad;

Whereas this system links regions and connects small and large cities and urban and rural areas;

Whereas transportation contributes to economic activity and to a nation's global competitiveness as a service, an industry, and an infrastructure;

Whereas the transportation sector accounts for 11 percent of the United States Gross Domestic Product;

Whereas the transportation sector employs over 11 million Americans;

Whereas the average household spends about 20 percent of its income on transportation, more than on any other expense except housing;

Whereas the President has proclaimed, by Executive Order, May 16 through May 22, 2004, as National Transportation Week;

Whereas Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957 (36 U.S.C. 120), designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day" and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962 (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week"; and

Whereas National Transportation Week provides an opportunity for the transportation community to join together for greater awareness about the importance of transportation and for making youth aware of transportation-related careers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the 108th Congress—

(1) applauds the men and women who keep America moving;

(2) recognizes National Transportation Week by supporting the goals of that Week; and

(3) urges all Americans to become more aware of the benefits and contributions of transportation to the United States economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 420, introduced by the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), recognizes the week of May 16 through the 22 as National Transportation Week and applauds the men and women who keep America moving.

Every Member of this body is well aware of the importance and the significance of our Nation's transportation system and its direct impact on the lives of everyone. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics,